

HB 6485

3/15/13

To: The General Assembly

My name is Geraldo Mejia besides being a barber(License#059862). I am also a barbershop owner.

I am writing to you in support of this bill H.B(6485). In my barbershop I have 10 chairs and I only have 4 barbers. I am barely making ends meet. Of the 4 barbers, I had helped two of them get their barber's license

by going to NY and studying there and currently I am in the process of helping financially another barber(5th)to get his license via this process. Why (New York City)? they have a fast path to acquire their licenses and the cost is \$2,300.00 around one fifth of the cost here in connecticut.

Let's analyze all the pros of having barbers train in NYC:

- 1) They have an accelerated program(2.5 months) to obtain the Master Barber License
- 2) A six months program if you want to receive financial aid. Cost ~\$4,500.00
- 3) They have an apprentice training program: Under the supervision of a Master barber you can practice the trade. Barbers have the option of staying for two year as an apprentice and then take a test or go to school and choose any of the two options above(1,2).
- 4) Do not have the problem of barbers exercising their trade without license. It only takes ~ a week for a person who is interested to fill out an application, pay a fee and be sponsored by either a master barber or by a school and practice their trade legally.

As a small business, if I do not get at least 8 barbers in my shop by the end of the year I would be force

to close.

An apprenticeship program will open the path to have barbers legally exercising their trade and be employed. Currently in Waterbury there are over 20 shops that at least have a 3-4 barber's vacancy.

Please take a look at NY barber apprenticeship program and use it as a model for CT.

[http://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/barber/barbering\\_faq.html](http://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/barber/barbering_faq.html)

An apprenticeship program will alleviate the shortage of barbers, barbers practicing their trade illegally, school making outrageous amount of money for their training. Also allows barbers to make money while being trained.

Due to the current law, barbers are moving to other states where they can work without being chased by the Health Dept and the police. New York with their apprenticeship program provide a fast path to employment without compromising the health of its citizens.

Thank you,

Geraldo Mejia

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